

(5) SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention generally relates to a container assembly comprising an open-ended container and a closure for the open-ended container, the closure comprising a flexible membrane. The various claims are directed toward the assembly wherein the general improvements over the prior art include, *inter alia*, providing an easy-open end to the container assembly permitting obtaining the contents of the can without the use of an opening device.

More specifically, Appellant's claim 1 recites an assembly comprising a closure for an open-ended container, and an open-ended container, the container assembly comprising: (i) a flexible membrane for closing the open end of the container (*see* Specification at pg. 4, line 17; pg. 7, lines 10-11; pg. 8, line 25-pg. 9, line 2; Figs. 1 and 2, reference characters 10, 11); (ii) an adhesive seal between the flexible membrane and the container (*see* Specification at pg. 4, line 18; pg. 8, lines 8-23; Figs. 1 and 2, reference characters 10, 11, 18); (iii) a rigid cap having a resiliently deformable member juxtaposed to the flexible membrane such that when the cap is in use, the flexible membrane is pressed against the container in the vicinity of the seal, thereby reinforcing the seal sufficiently to withstand high pressures which are generated from cooking the contents of the container (*see* Specification at pg. 4, line 19-pg. 5, line 5; pg. 10, lines 15-23; Figs. 1 and 2, reference characters 10, 11, 12, 18, 24); (iv) the rigid cap further having a first cam and follower pair, which when in use is engaged with a second cam and follower pair located on the container neck, relative movement between the first and second cam and follower pairs in a predetermined direction causes the rigid cap and the container neck to approach one another, thereby increasing the pressure exerted by the resiliently deformable member on the flexible membrane (*see* Specification at pg. 6, lines 4-10; pg. 9, lines 4-13; pg. 9, lines 19-26; Figs. 1 and

2, reference characters 10, 11, 12, 13b, 19, 23); and (v) the rigid cap further having a laminar member and an annular skirt, the skirt extending downwardly from the laminar member, and the second cam and follower pair is secured on an upper wall of the skirt, wherein the laminar member is spaced from the flexible membrane by a distance less than the maximum possible extension of the flexible membrane towards the laminar member (*see* Specification at pg. 9, lines 15-17; pg. 10, lines 5-7; pg. 11, lines 1-7; Figs. 1 and 2, reference characters 11, 12, 21, 22, 23, 25).